

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

LIBRARY
RECEIVED

★ MAY 19 1942 ★

U.S. Department of Agriculture

WE CAN ALL SAVE RUBBER

A broadcast by Miss Emily Davis, Bureau of Home Economics, and Wallace Kadderly, Office of Information, broadcast Thursday, April 9, 1942, in the Department of Agriculture of the National Farm and Home Hour, over stations associated with the Blue Network.

WALLACE KADDERLY

Here we are in Washington. Today, instead of Ruth Van Deman, your regular reporter from the Bureau of Home Economics, we have Emily Davis pinch-hitting for her.

Am I seeing things, Miss Davis, or is that a pair of rubber gloves with your hat?

EMILY DAVIS

It is a pair of rubber gloves, Mr. Kadderly, but I'm not wearing them on the street anywhere. I've been learning how to take extra-special care of rubber things, and these gloves are exhibit A. You see, Mr. Kadderly, the Bureau of Home Economics and the National Bureau of Standards have been looking into rubber conservation, and together - at the request of the Office of Price Administration - they've worked out suggestions to help Americans save rubber.

KADDERLY

Taking care of rubber--that's something Americans want to know these days. Now automobile tires--

DAVIS

I knew you'd think of tires first of all. But I'm thinking especially about household goods. Everybody has rubber at home that should be getting good care, now that Americans understand how important rubber is for winning the war. We really will be helping when we make what we have last as long as we can.

KADDERLY

That's true, because when we buy new overshoes or a rubber mat we are taking that much rubber away from war use, aren't we?

DAVIS

Absolutely.

KADDERLY

Speaking of overshoes and mats, I suspect most of us have more rubber around the house and yard than we realize.

DAVIS

Have you counted them?

KADDERLY

No - But right off the bat, I can think of rubber sink stoppers, and rubber garden hose, rain coat--hot water bottle--

(Over)

DAVIS

And rubber boots, if you have them, rubber jar rings.

KADDERLY

Electric cords, rubber wringer rolls on the washing machine.

DAVIS

And you want to take care of rubber erasers and rubber bands--

KADDERLY

What about those rubber gloves you brought with you? What's their future?

DAVIS

I'm going to keep the gloves--and my other rubber belongings--away from heat and light and oil and grease, when not in use, just as much as I can.

KADDERLY

Heat, light, oil and grease. That's not hard to remember. What about cold?

DAVIS

Cold doesn't harm rubber, but heat makes rubber crack and get weak and sticky. The higher the temperature, the faster rubber shows its age.

KADDERLY

You won't lay the gloves in the sun, I take it.

DAVIS

Indeed I won't. Sun combines light and heat, both bad for rubber.

KADDERLY

As I understand it, light tends to harm rubber only so far as it permeates it--that is--goes way into it.

DAVIS

That's true.

KADDERLY

And of course there are special paints too that help to protect rubber from light--like black and white paint on automobile tire walls.

DAVIS

Did you know, Mr. Kadderly, that sun is particularly hard on rubber when the rubber is partly stretched?

KADDERLY

Would you be thinking of summertime and a bathing cap, Miss Davis?

DAVIS

Maybe I would. Rubber in suspenders worn at work is stretched too.

KADDERLY

Then you mean rubber used in the sun, partly stretched should get good care when not in use.

DAVIS

That's it exactly.

KADDERLY

What are we going to do when grease and oil get on our rubber goods?

DAVIS

It's quite all right to let grease or oil get on rubber for a short time while working with it. But it's important to clean grease or oil off thoroughly afterwards--and clean it promptly. If grease and oil stay on rubber, the rubber swells and gets weak -- and it's never the same again.

KADDERLY

I suppose you'd use soap and water, to clean rubber--

DAVIS

I'd try soap and warm water first. If that didn't get off oil or grease, try sponging the rubber lightly with carbon tetrachloride, or some other dry-cleaning fluid that isn't inflammable and that will evaporate fast and leave no oily remains.

KADDERLY

You said sponge lightly--is that important?

DAVIS

Yes, it is. Even if grease is very hard to get off, rubber should never soak more than two or three minutes in dry cleaning fluid.

KADDERLY

Just a quick dip.

DAVIS

Yes, because the rubber may swell in the liquid, and, besides, rubber tears easily at a time like that. And one more thing about oil injuring rubber--oil includes not only the oil used in workshops and in farm and home jobs, but oil from the body, too. A foundation garment, such as a girdle, will last longer if it is washed often so that it doesn't absorb too much oil from the skin.

KADDERLY

We'll avoid oil and grease, and heat and light then, to make rubber give longer service. I'm just reviewing. What about taking care of rubber when not in use--overshoes, for example?

DAVIS

Rubber overshoes, and any other rubber goods you have, will last longer if they're put away in a cool, dark place.

KADDERLY

A cool, dark place might be found in a basement. Some closets are cool.

DAVIS

That's right. Not all dark places are cool. It's wise to avoid storing rubber near any steam or hot water pipe, or near a hot air duct.

KADDERLY

And we won't store rubber in the attic, I'm sure. It's apt to be hot there.

DAVIS

If a dark place isn't handy, a dark place can be made for a rubber article by putting it in a box, or wrapping it with heavy paper.

KADDERLY

Does it help to sprinkle cornstarch on rubber, when storing it?

DAVIS

Yes, people often do dust cornstarch or talcum powder on rubber that is to be folded, or that might stick, and it's a good precaution. I'm going to sprinkle a little inside my rubber gloves when they're not at work.

KADDERLY

I suppose rubber on a household appliance needs the same general treatment you've been describing--avoid heat and light, grease and oil as far as possible. And handle with care.

DAVIS

Exactly, and it's a pretty good idea to read over the manufacturer's directions for care of equipment. You may find some special advice for making a rubber part last in service.

KADDERLY

Any special suggestions for hot water bottles--?

DAVIS

Any rubber goods that may be wanted in sickness should be put away carefully, preferably in the box it came in. And, of course, don't let tubing bend sharply or be cut by any sharp object pressing it.

KADDERLY

Like treating electric cords gently--so they don't twist and strain.

DAVIS

I'll tell you, Mr. Kadderly, we've only talked about a few of the more important ways to make rubber last. Wouldn't you like a set of mimeographed suggestions, prepared by the Bureau of Home Economics? I have them right here--

KADDERLY

Have you more copies, so I may offer this to our Farm and Home friends?

DAVIS

Yes, please do.

KADDERLY

I think many of them will want to know how to save rubber-- and mend it-- I see the mimeographed suggestions tell about mending, too.

DAVIS

You'll find them very complete.

KADDERLY

(Ad lib offer-- Care of rubber in wartime)